Station WPSH
Station Hospital
West Point, New York

MAMD WFS/cjg

25 October 1949

Miss Patricia B. Butler
Station Manager, WCSR
Smith College
North Hampton, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Butler:

I guess it would be best to enlighten you regarding the course of your letter after it arrived at West Point. It seems that your letter was directed to Lt. Colonel Martin, Chief Signal Officer, who answered it and then referred it to the Commandant of Cadets, after which it was forwarded to me.

As Lt. Colonel Martin stated in his letter, he is principally concerned with the technical maintenance of the equipment at WPSH, and as a result he may not be too familiar with the latest changes in programming at WPSH, one of which is that WPSH is now an authorized cadet activity with a number of cadets participating, varying between 15 and 20. It might be well in answer to your letter to give you an idea of the set-up at WPSH.

We are one of the 160 such stations on the Armed Forces Radio Network. Our situation is so classified as a four-channel distribution system; in other words, we have four programs being broadcast simultaneously from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, seven days per week. Of these four channels, three consist of all network programs from the four major networks, along with two or three of the independent stations in New York City. I am quite sure that you are familiar with all of these various network programs. The other channel, or Channel No. 1, is classified as our local channel, and it is through this local channel that we broadcast all the programs of specific interest to the patients in this hospital. Our most important source of programming stems from all of the sport activities in which West Point engages. It is necessary for us to cover football, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, and such. Further, we produce the usual type of log broadcast, such as disc jockey shows and the like, along with a large majority of remote broadcasts of the social activities about the post. These include such things as the West Point Players' productions, 100th Night Show, and the different New York entertainers that perform at West Point. Besides this media of programming, we are supplied with a continuous flow of half-hour programs from the Armed Forces Radio Service in Hollywood, California, and these programs are designed basically in two categories - those for information and education and those for entertainment. You may be familiar with many of these, such as "The Command Performance" show, "G.I. Jive with G.I. Jill," "To the Rear, March," etc. These transcriptions from Hollywood comprise about half of our weekly programming.

I mentioned earlier in this letter that we are an authorized cadet activity, and it is our responsibility to afford the cadets at West Point with some media through which they may participate in radio broadcasting. This is best accomplished through the media of sports broadcasts. We carry an average of two games per week, which enables about eight cadets to work each week. A few of these cadets are primarily interested in general announcing.

Miss Patricia B. Butler 25 Oct 49

It was mentioned in Lt. Colonel Martin's letter that we had attempted to obtain some type of transmittor to enable us to broadcast to the entire Academy. This situation isn't as dead as Lt. Colonel Martin assumed that it might be. We are still working on the possibility of a grant from the Federal Communications Commission. This will probably be a long and tiresome effort.

You suggested in your letter that we appear at your station to do a program. This is more difficult than it seems to be on the surface. Point number one, we have to decide whether or not the cadets will have a free week-end, and if so, when they will have this free week-end. Another, and the most important point is whether or not we can receive authorization for the cadets to make this trip on one of their free week-ends. If we can succeed in accomplishing these two points, we will by all means appear at Smith College to do a program. I should like to mention at this time that this situation probably will not materialize until at least sometime during the latter part of January. I am mentioning this because our one trip last year necessitated four months of work and preparation in order to accomplish it. I should like, above all, to thank you on behalf of the cadets and the personnel of the station for inviting us to your station. I will promise you that I will make every effort to make an appearance at Smith College. I will, of course, drop you a line and let you know well in advance of any positive action along this line.

Trusting that we may meet and discuss college programming, I am

Sincerely,

William F. Sherry

WILLIAM F. SHERRY
Station Manager
Station WPSH